

# Transcript of the President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Matters

## News Conference in Brief

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9—Following are the highlights of President Kennedy's news conference today.

**Wheat**—He cleared the way for sale of \$250 million in surplus American wheat or wheat flour to Russia through private dealers. He said the Government would not prohibit such sales, on terms of cash or commercial credit, payable in dollars or gold. [Opening statement, Questions 1 and 2, this page.]

**Vietnam**—The President said it was "wholly untrue" that the Central Intelligence Agency had pursued policies in South Vietnam that were in conflict with basic United States policies. He said that top-level policies on Vietnam were now fully agreed upon by all departments concerned. [Questions 2, 7, 16, 20.]

**Soviet Relations**—He said there had been "no agreement" to buy nuclear weapons from outer space but that the views of both the United States and the Soviet Union coincided on the subject. He indicated his support for a United Nations resolution to make breakthrough in his meeting tomorrow with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. [Questions 3, 4, 5.]

**Latin America**—The President said there had been no reversal of policy in opposition to military takeovers in Latin America. He said the Administration would apply pressure short of military action to undo the damage and prevent recurrences. [Questions 9, 10.]

**Politics**—He forecast a close fight for the Democratic party next year and indicated strong belief that Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona would be the Republican nominee. [Questions 11, 15, 22, 23.]

fore affect our balance of payments, therefore affect our national interests.

In addition, profits are at a record high now. They have never been higher in history. The whole year of 1963 looks very good, and therefore, we should be concerned with reducing prices as well as increasing them.

For the time being, we are watching the matter with concern and will continue in the days ahead to do so. Mr. President, has there been an official ruling that giving commercial credit to Russia would not violate the arms embargo? Yes, that is correct, because it is not a government-to-government transaction. These are private traders that will be involved and the credit will be granted to the people of Russia. As you know, the terms were 25 percent down, and the balance over the next six months for a period of 18 months. But because the interest rate was of a figure—I think it was 10 percent—I am sure the Russians decided to pay cash and therefore paid something like 80 percent.

We will be dealing in the same manner with the interest rate. Our interest rate would be slightly higher than the Administration's rate, but, under the private commercial system, it may be a very large percentage. But we have got the ruling from the Department of Justice that this does not contravene existing law, particularly the Johnson Act.

Q. Do grain dealers take the risk then? A. The grain dealers will take the risk, but the private banks.

Q. Mr. President, the C.I.A. former head of the C.I.A., Mr. Dulles, was in an interview in the Journal-American today that reports of disputes between the C.I.A. and the State Department with various members of the Government in South Vietnam have arisen because of a lack of clear operational policy. Is that correct? A. I would agree with the fact that the C.I.A. and the State Department have different views on the operational policy. In view of the defense in the case of the C.I.A. and the State Department, I think it is not complete. I think it is not complete. I think it is not complete.

Q. Why, I would like to know, if the C.I.A. is not complete, why is it not complete? A. I think it is not complete because it is not complete. I think it is not complete because it is not complete. I think it is not complete because it is not complete.

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## President Given Statuette for His Interest in Health

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (AP)—President Kennedy was given a bronze statuette for his desk today, but he was ahead of the donors—he already had one, 2,400 years old.

Today's offering, a discuss through typifying as an Italian, was awarded to the President for his interest in health and physical vigor. It was presented by the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, a department of the National Education Association.

Mr. Kennedy thanked officials of the association and remarked, "Here's one I picked up in Rome."

This statuette, also in bronze, is mounted on brown marble. It is the figure of a man with outstretched arms and clenched fists.

The statuette was presented by Dr. Ben W. Miller of the University of California at Los Angeles, president of the physical education association. Dr. Miller said that the statuette was a gift to the President for his interest in health and physical vigor.

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can Republic and Honduras, does the United States plan any general examination of its policies in regard to military regimes or does it content itself with a general hemispheric action in regard to this?

A. I have just described what our policy is for the Americas. As far as our national policy, it is to withdraw our diplomatic staffs from all the rest.

So, I think we have made very clear our policy and our interest in providing for a constitutional process in those countries.

We are working with the other members of the Organization of American States to bring together, we can bring about a return to order in those countries and a return to peaceful procedures. That is the policy, or, if you will, that is the action that we have taken.

Q. Mr. President, I was asking specifically, sir, whether the United States contemplates any general hemispheric action in terms of general action by the O.A.S. in this respect. Well, not at this time. This is a matter we will have to consider in the future. The O.A.S. has to decide what they are going to do. I think the United States has made its position very clear.

Q. Are you satisfied, sir, that the United States did all it could, short of the use of force, to bring about a return to order in those countries and a return to peaceful procedures? That is the policy, or, if you will, that is the action that we have taken.

Yes, I think that, yes, I have looked over the conversations, the minutes, the cables and so on, and I think we did it.

This is what we ought to do. The United States Marines into Honduras—which of course we could not do under the conditions because of the time gap—I think that is not the way in my opinion.

Q. Mr. President, last week in California, you said something that led some of your supporters to question your position to a shorter week. Is that correct? No, I am still opposed to it. What I was talking about was a very carefully, as the century goes on, in my judgment, as machines increasingly take the place of men, that we will have more leisure, and therefore, we should take those steps in the field of conservation, resource management, and so on, that will "prepare us" for that period. That is not talking about a shorter week.

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## Kennedy to Pay Extra Honor To Irish Prime Minister

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9—Kennedy will pay extra honor to Irish Prime Minister, Sean P. Lemass, at a formal dinner at the White House next Tuesday.

The White House has invited Lemass to dine with the President and Mrs. Kennedy at the White House next Tuesday.

Ministers and other government officials will be invited to the dinner. The dinner will be held at the White House next Tuesday.

Spoken at the President's request to repay the kindness shown by the Irish people in his tour there last summer. The black-tie dinner—just one step below the white-tie at

fairly known as state dinners—was attended by 90 guests. Mrs. Stephen Smith, a sister of the President, will substitute for Mrs. Kennedy as hostess. The President's wife is in Greece.

**Agriculture Official Named**—WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 (AP)—The Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday the appointment of Dr. Lloyd B. Bentsen as administrator of the Federal Extension Service.

Dr. Bentsen, 52, is a member of the department. Dr. Dr. Bentsen has been deputy administrator of the Extension Service since 1958. He has been in the Department of Agriculture since 1958.

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